



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Memorandum

6300 Georgetown Pike
McLean, Virginia 22101

Subject: **ACTION**: LTPP Directive D-66
Accreditation Requirements for
LTPP Pavement Distress Raters and Reviewers

Date: August 19, 2019

From: Deborah Walker
Long-Term Infrastructure Performance Team

Reply to
Attn of: HRDI-30

To: Mr. Gabe Cimini, PM - LTPP Data Collection Contract

Attached is the Long-Term Pavement Performance (LTPP) Program Directive D-66. This directive details the accreditation requirements for the Long-Term Pavement Performance (LTPP) distress raters and office reviewers.

Please ensure that all personnel involved with the distress data collection for the LTPP program are aware of this new directive. Should you have any questions or would like to discuss this directive, please do not hesitate to contact Deborah Walker via email at deborah.walker@dot.gov or (202) 493-3068.

Attachments (2)

FHWA:HRDI-30 D. Walker:jeh:202-493-3068:08/19/19

File: M:\LTPP Directives\DISTRESS\D-66

cc:

Jonathan Groeger

Deborah Walker

Directive Binder

LTPP Team

Official file

LONG-TERM PAVEMENT PERFORMANCE PROGRAM DIRECTIVE



For the Technical Direction of the LTPP Program



Program Area:	Distress	Directive Number:	D-66
Date:	August 19, 2019	Supersedes:	D-56
Subject:	Accreditation Requirements for LTPP Pavement Distress Raters and Reviewers		

Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to detail the accreditation requirements for the Long-Term Pavement Performance (LTPP) distress raters and office reviewers. Pavement distress data collection is a key activity of the LTPP program and the quality of the data must be credible. Therefore, pavement distress raters responsible for collecting the data and office staff responsible for performing quality assurance reviews, must have knowledge of definitions and distress rating procedures described in the *Distress Identification Manual (DIM) for the Long-Term Pavement Performance Program*, FHWA-HRT-13-092 or the latest version of the manual. In addition, distress raters and office review staff must perform a specified number of field distress surveys annually to maintain their accreditation.

Training

The Data Collection Contractor (DCC) is responsible for collecting pavement distress data of the highest quality. To fulfill this responsibility, the DCC must train its staff to a high level of competence in the knowledge and procedures contained in the DIM. A combination of classroom and field training activities should be provided on an ongoing basis to maintain the competence of LTPP pavement distress raters and office review staff.

Rater Accreditation

Pavement distress surveys for the LTPP program must be performed by experienced personnel who have successfully completed the program's distress rater accreditation workshops and who regularly perform distress ratings. The accreditation workshop is intended for trained, experienced personnel and those with experience in LTPP pavement distress data collection who have demonstrated familiarity with the DIM, as determined by the DCC. All personnel attending the accreditation workshop must meet the following criteria:

- have a high school diploma or equivalent
- visual acuity of at least 20/20 with correction, if necessary
- have received training by DCC staff on distress procedures and practices and are familiar with the DIM
- have assisted an accredited rater in performing distress data collection on LTPP test sections for asphalt and jointed concrete pavement (minimum of two sections for each pavement type).

In lieu of attendance at an accreditation workshop, a rater can achieve accreditation or re-accreditation by an on-site examination conducted by an FHWA appointed examiner. This on-site examination will consist of a pre-test, successful rating of four test sections (minimum of two sections each for asphalt and jointed concrete pavement), and the successful completion of a final exam. Raters receiving

accreditation through on-site examination must attend the next scheduled accreditation workshop to maintain their qualification.

Candidates for accreditation must certify that they meet the above criteria using the attached form before attending an LTPP accreditation workshop or requested on-site examination.

Maintaining Qualification

Pavement distress raters for the LTPP program must regularly perform surveys on both asphalt and concrete test sections following accreditation to be considered a qualified rater. Field personnel are required to perform at least 10 surveys a year. For new distress raters, the first 6 surveys shall be conducted under direct field supervision by an LTPP accredited rater.

Office reviewers must remain proficient in distress identification procedures by performing at least 5 manual field distress surveys a year on both asphalt and concrete test sections to remain qualified to properly assess the quality of field surveys.

LTPP pavement distress raters and office reviewers shall participate in and achieve a passing grade at each LTPP distress rater accreditation workshop. Deviations from these requirements to maintain qualifications must be approved in writing by the LTPP program office.

Data Quality

The DCC is responsible for ensuring quality control and quality assurance of manual pavement distress data. The training, accreditation, and minimum activity levels required for distress raters and office reviewers are intended to reduce data variability. LTPP Directive D-58 provides guidelines on office review of manual pavement distress surveys that shall be followed by DCC staff.

Prepared by: FHWA/TSSC

Approved by:

Jean A. Nehme, Ph.D., P.E.
Long-Term Infrastructure Performance
Team Leader (HRDI-30)

LONG-TERM PAVEMENT PERFORMANCE PROGRAM



Pavement Distress Rater Qualification Certification



I certify that I meet the minimum criteria established in LTPP Directive D-66 to attend a LTPP Distress Rater Accreditation Workshop as specified below:

- have a high school diploma or equivalent
- visual acuity of at least 20/20 with correction, if necessary
- have been trained by DCC staff on distress procedures and practices and familiar with the DIM
- have assisted an accredited rater in performing distress data collection on LTPP test sections for asphalt and jointed concrete pavement (minimum of two sections for each pavement type).

Name (Print)

Signature

Date